

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for installing and [configuring] configuring a package including an operating system, software products, and applications on at least one end-user computer connected to at least one server computer in a network, comprising:

means₁ coupled to the at least one server computer₁ for storing the package and an identification data of the at least one end-user computer;

means for sending the package from the storing means to the at least one server computer based on the identification data of the at least one end-user computer; and

means₂ coupled to the sending means₂ for creating on the at least one server computer an installation program and associated response files based on the identification data, to install said package on the least one end-user computer;

whereby said identification data comprises at least a location data where said at least one end-user computer is installed and a function data associated with the function that said at least one end-user computer performs in the network.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for assigning to said package said at least one end-user computer location data and said at least one end-user computer function data.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein said network further comprises a plurality of end-user computers to be installed with a plurality of packages, and wherein said function [information] data is arranged into a plurality of function classes, wherein each function class [identifying] identifies a set of end-user computers among the plurality of end-user computers in the network having a common function in the network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of function classes comprises a client function class and a server function class.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the identification data further comprises information on a hardware configuration and a software configuration of at least some of the plurality of end-user computers in the network.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, [wherein the storing means] further [comprises] comprising means for [up-dating] updating an installation status [assigned to] of each of the plurality of end-user computers.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [6] 3, [wherein the storing means] further [comprises] comprising means for [up-dating] updating a package status [assigned to] of each of the plurality of packages.

8. (Original) The system of claim 3, further comprising means for creating the packages and means for sending said created packages to the storing means.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for performing an initial software load [of] on the at least one end-user computer.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the means for performing the initial software load comprises a bootable device from which the end-user computer boots.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for installing and [configuring] configuring a package including an operating system, software products, and applications on at least one end-user computer connected to at least one server computer in a network, comprising [the steps of:]

storing [into] in a central repository the package and an identification data of the at least one end-user computer;

sending the package from the central repository to the at least one server computer based on the identification data;

creating on the at least one server computer an installation program and associated response files based on the identification data; and

installing said package on the least one end-user computer;

whereby said identification data comprises at least a location [information] where said at least one end-user computer is installed and a function [information] that said at least one end-user computer performs in the network.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of assigning the [location information and the function information] identification data to the package.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said network further comprises a plurality of end-user computers to be installed with a plurality of packages, and wherein [said] the function [information] is [arranged into] selected from a plurality of function classes, each function class identifying a set of end-user computers among the plurality of end-user computers in the network having a common network function [in the network].

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of function classes comprises a client function class and a server function class.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the identification data further comprises information on a hardware configuration and a software configuration of at least some of the plurality of end-user computers in the network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, [wherein the step of storing] further [comprises the step of updating] comprising updating an installation status assigned to each of the plurality of end-user computers.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, [wherein the step of storing] further [comprises the step of up-dating] comprising updating a package status assigned to each of the plurality of packages.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising [the step of] creating the packages and sending [said] the created packages to the central repository.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising [the step of] performing an initial software load of the at least one end-user computer.

20. (New) A system for automatically loading a software package on an end-user computer, comprising:

a central repository that stores a location and a function associated with the end-user computer and that further stores a package that includes an operating system and at least one additional software application;

a server computer coupled to the central repository that is configured to send the package to the end-user computer based on the location and the function; and

an application that, based on the location and the function, is configured to create an installation program that installs the package on the end-user computer.

21. (New) The system of Claim 20, wherein the end-user computer comprises a new computer that does not include an installed operating system.

22. (New) The system of Claim 20, wherein the server computer selects the package that is to be sent to the end-user computer based on the location and the function associated with the end-user computer.

23. (New) The system of Claim 20, further comprising software that is configured to track the installation status of the end-user computer.